

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 28, 2003. Claims 1, 4-21, 24-41, 44-60, and 81-83 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 21, and 41 are in independent form. Claims 2, 3, 22, 23, 42, 43, and 61-80 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter; those claims will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 4, 5, 21, 24, 25, 41, 44, and 45 have been amended to define Applicant's invention still more clearly, and Claims 6-20, 26-40, 44-60 have been amended as to matters of form and to ensure consistency of terminology. Claims 81-83 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings on the grounds noted on page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the drawings and have amended Figures 2, 10, 15, 20, 21, 23, 33, and 51 to overcome the noted objection. It is believed that the objection to the drawings has been remedied, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected the specification under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, on the grounds noted on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

In response to that rejection, the specification has been carefully reviewed and amended as necessary to ensure that they comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. A Substitute Specification is submitted herewith; Applicant respectfully submits that the Substitute

Specification adds no new matter. It is believed that the rejection of the specification has been remedied.

Claims 1-28 were objected to because of uncertainty as to their dependencies (see page 4 of the Office Action). In response to that objection, the claims as originally presented are included in the above-mentioned Substitute Specification. Further, the claims have been amended herein, as shown above, without the vertical white strip. It is believed that the objection to Claims 1-28 has been remedied, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 13-21, 24-26, 33-41, 44-46, and 53-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,790,119 (*Sklut et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,353,399 (*Kuwamoto et al.*), Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 28, 29, 31, 32, 48, 49, 51, and 52 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sklut et al.* in view of *Kuwamoto et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,996,029 (*Sugiyama et al.*), Claims 10, 30, and 50 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sklut et al.* in view of *Kuwamoto et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,147,770 (*Unishi et al.*), and Claims 7, 27, and 47 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sklut et al.* in view of *Kuwamoto et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 011,553 (*Komiyama*).

The present invention is directed to presenting a setup screen for a virtual peripheral device that provides a plurality of functions which are actually executed by various peripheral devices currently available on a communication medium. See Fig. 17, for example.¹

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a data processing apparatus capable of performing data communication with various peripheral devices connected on a predetermined communication medium. The apparatus includes obtaining means, system display means, designation means, setup screen display means, and control means. The obtaining means obtains peripheral device information including connection information and status information. The system display means displays a system configuration on a display with icons based on the peripheral device information obtained by the obtaining means. The designation means designates a combination of any of the icons displayed on the display. The setup screen display means displays on the display a setup screen for the combined functions based on the combination designated by the designation means, if the combined functions are determined to be valid. The control means controls the peripheral devices designated by the designation means in order to execute the combined functions in response to an execution instruction. The control means further controls the peripheral devices based on a parameter input in the setup screen displayed by the setup screen display means.

Among other important features of Claim 1 are obtaining peripheral device information including connection information and status information, designating a combination

¹ It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

of any of the icons displayed on the display, and controlling the peripheral devices designated by the designation means in order to execute the combined functions in response to an execution instruction and controlling the peripheral devices based on a parameter input in the setup screen displayed by the setup screen display means.

Sklut et al. relates to a job ticket programming system. An application server registers a first metaphor element corresponding with a first set of device selections and a second metaphor element corresponding with a second set of device selections. In practice, the metaphor elements are "linked" with each other, on the screen display, and a user is apprised of the selections, in a resulting metaphor combination which are available for job ticket programming. Figure 9 represents part of a flowchart depicting the metaphorical workflow technique. The approach of Fig. 9 is recursive and each combination is considered to determine user preferences with respect to choices. Assuming the end of the combination has not been met (step 206) another device metaphor is selected (step 208) so that the user can examine attributes of the next device and make a suitable choice in accordance with the above-described procedure. The technique of making choices for each combination is implemented with steps 209 and 210, and the process continues to loop back to step 209 until decisions have been made for each developed metaphorical combination. Once the metaphorical template is complete (step 208), one or more job tickets based on the one or more programmed combinations are created in column 18, lines 25-38. As shown in Fig. 12, the device metaphor is a simple symbolic representation. However, the device metaphor is not created based on device information obtained via the network. Nothing has been found in *Sklut et al.* that would teach or suggest

obtaining peripheral device information including connection information and status information, designating a combination of any of the icons displayed on the display, and controlling the peripheral devices designated by the designation means in order to execute the combined functions in response to an execution instruction and controlling the peripheral devices based on a parameter input in the setup screen displayed by the setup screen display means, as recited in Claim 1.

Further, the Office Action correctly states that *Sklut et al.* does not disclose the system display means of Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Sklut et al.*, taken alone.

Kuwamoto et al. is not seen to overcome the deficiencies of *Sklut et al.* *Kuwamoto et al.* relates to a method and device for managing shared sources in the information processing device, where the information processing device is separated from an I/O device allowing information to be input to or output from the information processing device. *Kuwamoto et al.* discusses obtaining information on functions of devices on the network and displaying corresponding icons. However, nothing has been found in *Kuwamoto et al.* that would teach or suggest designating a combination of any of the icons displayed on the display, and controlling the peripheral devices designated by the designation means in order to execute the combined functions in response to an execution instruction and controlling the peripheral devices based on a parameter input in the setup screen displayed by the setup screen display means, as recited in Claim 1.

Applicant submits that neither *Sklut et al.* nor *Kuwamoto et al.*, nor any combination thereof (assuming *arguendo* that any such combination would be permissible) teaches or suggests the method of Claim 1, of obtaining peripheral device information including connection information and status information, designating a combination of any of the icons displayed on the display, and controlling the peripheral devices designated by the designation means in order to execute the combined functions in response to an execution instruction and controlling the peripheral devices based on a parameter input in the setup screen displayed by the setup screen display means.

For at least these reasons, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claims 21 and 41 are method and computer-readable memory medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as those discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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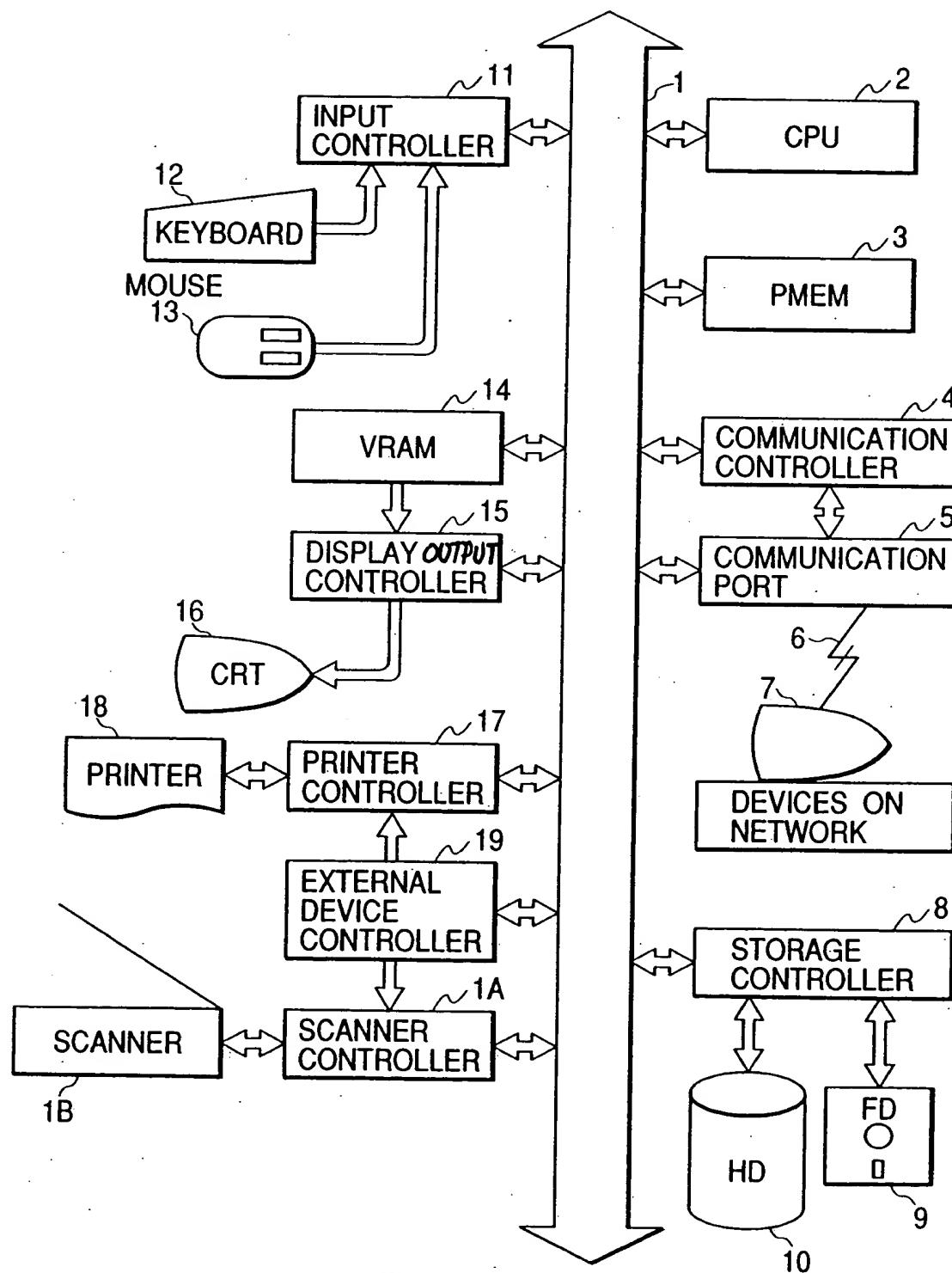
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FIG. 2



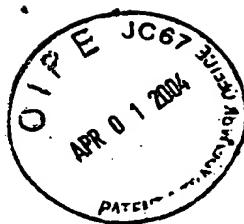


FIG. 10

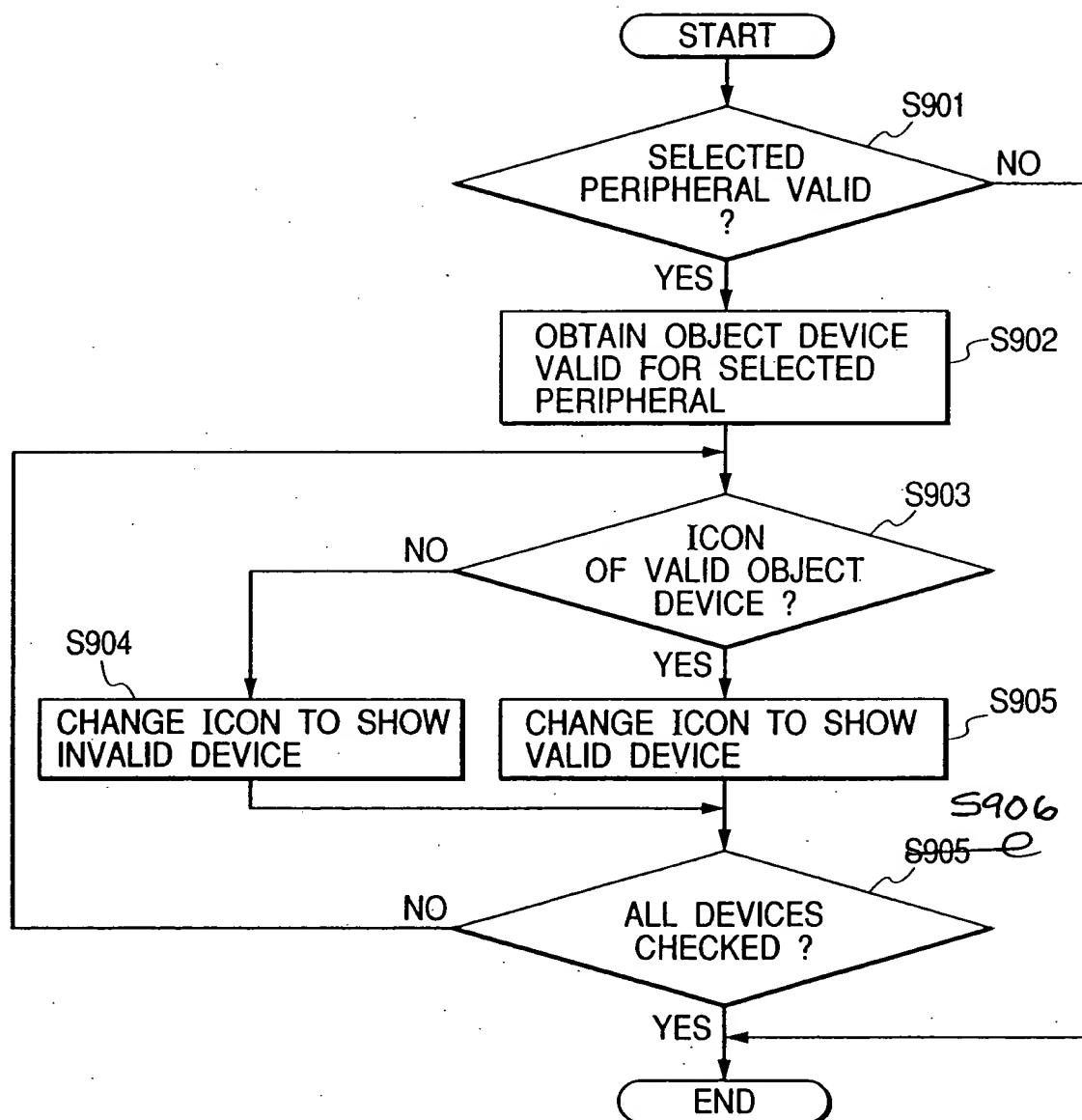




FIG. 15

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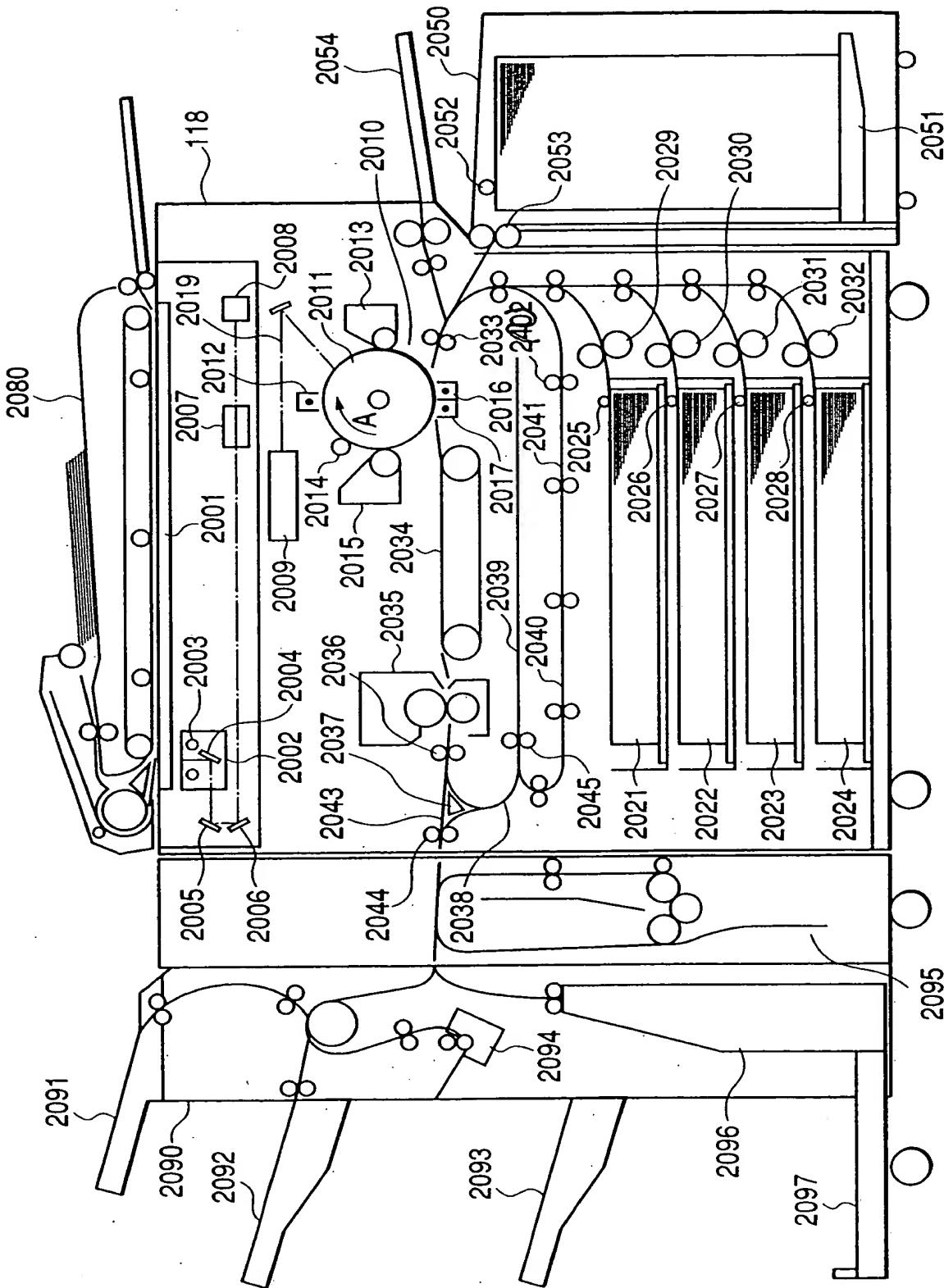
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	EJECTION METHOD		
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DEVICE SETUP	FEED OPTION	1505	
	EJECTION OPTION		

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FIG. 20

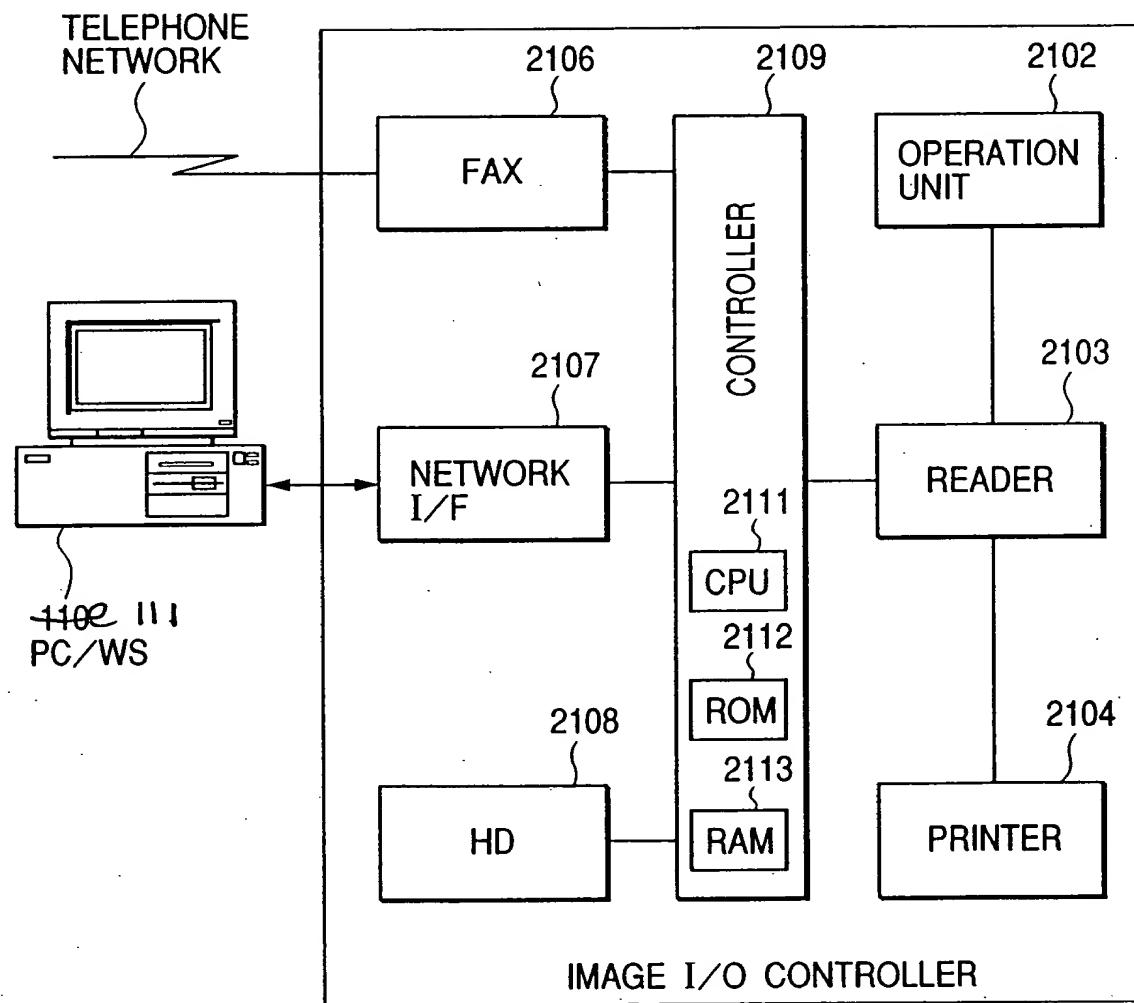


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FIG. 21



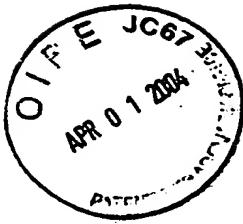
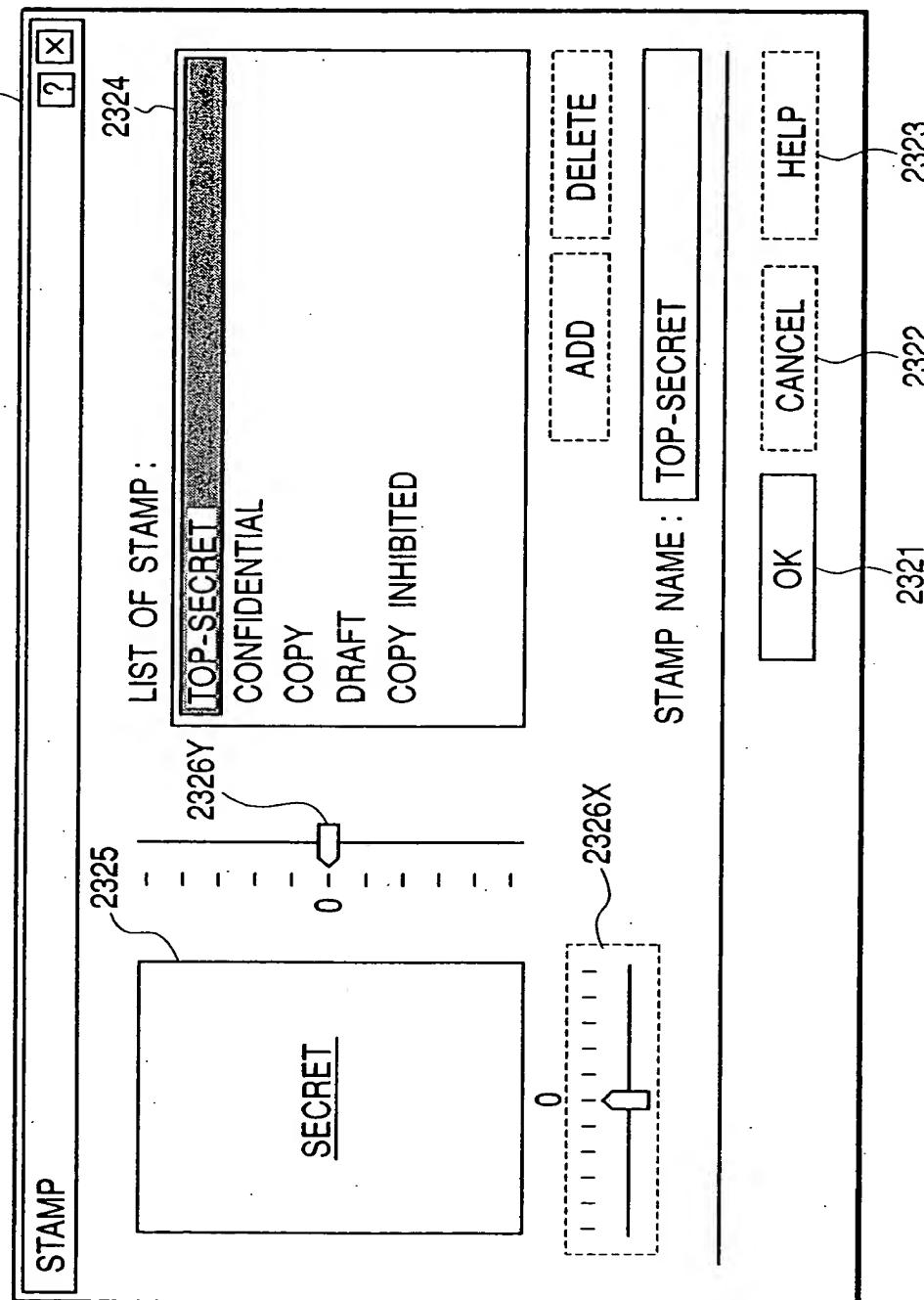


FIG. 23



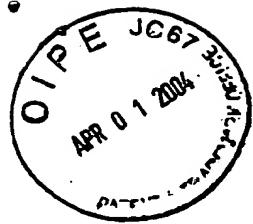
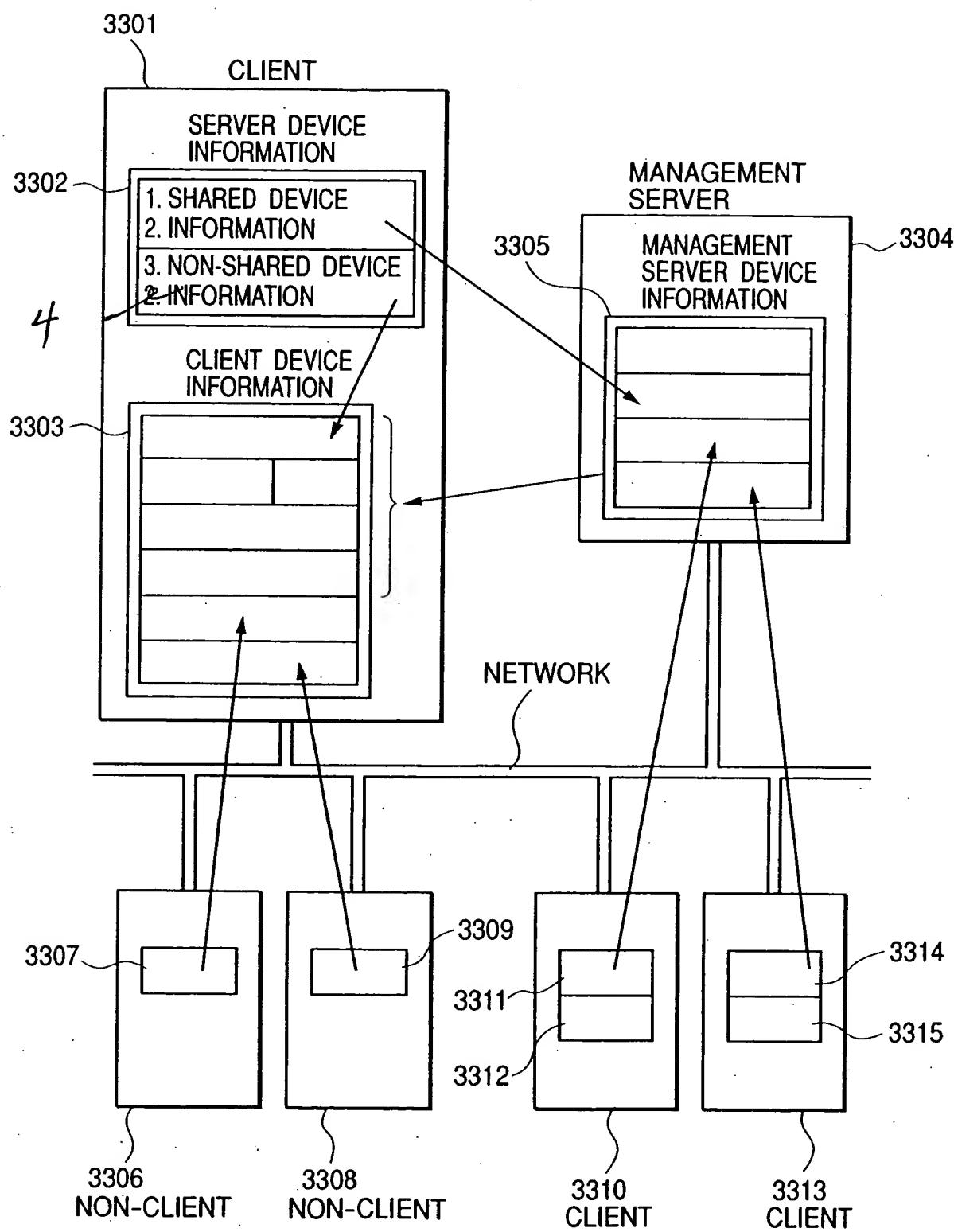


FIG. 33





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FIG. 50

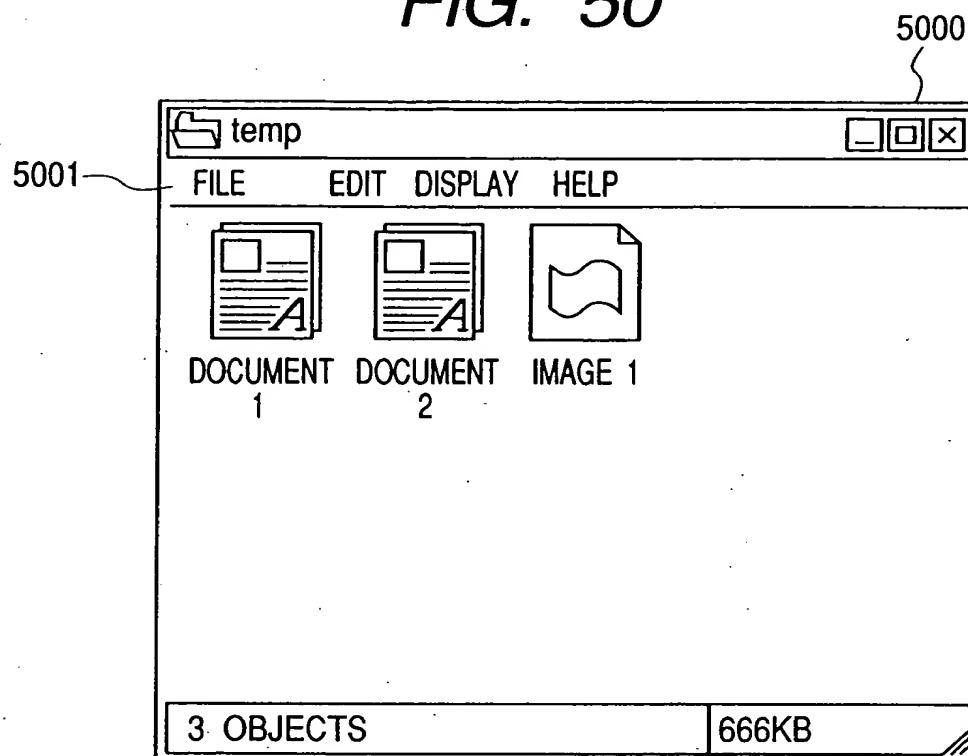


FIG. 51

